

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



Volume 8, Issue 11

April 2019

Employees and others recognized at City Awards Banquet

The City of Marion hosted its annual Employee Awards Banquet at Woodhaven on Tuesday, March 19th. A delicious meal was served and many door prizes were awarded. A number of employees were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the City of Marion and its citizens.



Mayor Ashley Brady stated that this award recognizes one City Employee who has excelled in his or her work in the past year and is the highest honor of the program. A committee is appointed by the Mayor to receive nominations from Department Heads and review the work of each employee nominated. Personnel and Purchasing Director **Elizabeth Gray** was honored with the City of Marion's Employee of the Year Award for 2018. This award recognizes one City Employee who has excelled in his or her work during the past year and is the highest honor of the program. **Elizabeth** started her career with the City of Marion in 2007. She assists the Mayor and City Administrator in planning and coordinating the City's human resource management programs and is the authorized purchasing agent for the City, overseeing the procurement of a variety of supplies, materials, equipment and other services. **Elizabeth** is responsible for submitting claims and supporting documentation to the City's liability and workers compensation insurance carriers, and after disaster events to FEMA. Elizabeth also administers the City's wellness programs.

She encourages City employees to get fit and healthy and coordinates the Couch to 5K and Biggest Loser Programs. **Elizabeth** and her husband Jim are residents of Marion County. Jim retired as Marion's Chief of Police in 2015 and is currently employed by the Marion County Coroner's Office and Baxley Hardware. They have four children (Chase, Kendall, Jenny and Catherine) and are members of Union Baptist Church.

Recognized in her absence was Retiree **Cindy Barr**. Captain Cindy Barr was hired by the Marion Police Department in 2000, and retired in 2018. She served as a school resource officer in the City of Marion for eleven years and then served the department as their Community Relations and Training Officer. Captain Barr previously served as a narcotics officer with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and as a corrections officer at the Marion County Detention Center. Barr also attained the rank of Sergeant before getting out of the U.S. Army in 1992.



Public Service Award for outstanding public service to the City of Marion, was presented by Mayor Ashley Brady. The recipient of this award is selected by an Anonymous Committee. The award honors people who have unselfishly given their time, energy and resources to help better the city. The 2018 Public Service Award was presented to two recipients, the Azalea Garden Club and the Daphne Garden Club. The members of these two organizations volunteer countless hours of hard work towards the beautification of our community. They can often be seen around Marion, working in flower beds and cleaning up litter along roadways they've adopted.

They also participate in community events celebrating National Garden Club Week and National Arbor Day. Both clubs were instrumental in cleanup efforts after Hurricane Florence in October 2018, dedicating their time and effort to restoration plans and plantings at the Marion County Courthouse Square.



Fire Chief Trey Cooper presented the Firefighter of the Year award to Captain **Jimmy Collins**. Municipal Court Clerk **Heather Evans** received the 2018 Chief's Award from Police Chief Tony Flowers.

Lt. Marilyn Rogers was named Police Officer of the Year by her peers.



Visit the City of Marion Facebook page for photos.
www.marionsc.gov

Continue from front page:

Service Awards were given to the following:
Five Years – Sgt. Bobby J. Davis (Police Department), Vondell Roberts (Public Works), Council Member Emerson Hunt, Council Member Joe Frazier, Crossing Guards Aundry Bowens, Ernest Conner and James Washington and Ethan Brown (Fire Department).

Ten Years – Lt. Bessie Gause (Police Department)

Fifteen Years – Council Member Ronald Atkinson

Twenty Years – Leonard “Winkie “ Fore (Public Works Superintendent)

Twenty Years – Council Member Michael Baker

Mayor Brady thanked all who donated generously to honor the city’s employees and guests. Congratulations to all the city employees for their hard work, outstanding service and dedication to the City of Marion.

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
“We Are Our Neighbors’ Keepers”
Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

Happy Spring from A-Team. As the time changes, we need to remember that people will be out more in the evening. People will be walking and riding bikes. We need to be especially mindful of children playing in our neighborhoods. The city continues to have problems with people not obeying the speed limits. One of the worst streets for speeding runs through the heart of A-Team’s neighborhood; the section of Withlacoochee from Liberty Street to Bobby Gerald Parkway. The speed limit is 25 mph and almost no one obeys that limit. There are no stop signs to slow drivers down and very little sidewalk to offer walkers, runners or kids an alternative to being in the street. It is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. I challenge the citizens and visitors of Marion to weigh the time they gain by speeding against the loss of life or serious injury to another person. We all know saving five minutes is not worth a life, but we don’t think about it until it’s too late. While crime is certainly a component of this problem, it also affects the quality of life in our neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch is not just about reducing crime it, is also about improving the quality of life of our residents. So please, the next time you get behind the wheel, take a moment to think of your fellow citizens and vow to do your part in keeping our streets safe. I challenged our citizens and visitors earlier, now I challenge the Marion Police Department to help us with this problem. The speeding will not stop until the ticket writing starts.

Come out and join A-Team and be part of making Marion a safer place to live. We meet @ 6:30 PM the first Monday of each month in the firehouse on East Bond St. For more info call me @ 843-433-0941.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE YARD OF THE MONTH



Dallas and Eleanor Monroe of 221 West Liberty Street have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for March 2019. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community’s unique character. Mr. & Mrs. Monroe will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Coming in April!!!!!!



April 1st - 6:00 p.m. **Marion Library.** Craft and Chat.

April 2nd - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. **World Autism Awareness.** Marion County Sheriff’s Office, 2715 E. Highway 76, Mullins.

April 3rd - 8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Raspberries and Thyme, 329 N. Main Street, Marion.

April 3rd - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. Hosted by Shiloh United Methodist Church, Rev. Eddie Collier . Cost \$5 per person.

April 5th - 1:00 p.m. **The Marion Library** will be hosting the first meeting of **Let’s Read Y’all**, a new book club for adults that focuses on contemporary southern fiction. For more information on the book club, please ask for Debbie the next time you visit the Marion Library or call (843) 423-8300.

April 6th– 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Relay for Life 2019.** Withlacoochee Park. For more information contact Ms. Dana Graham at dmcgraham78@yahoo.com or (843) 254-0412.

April 6th - 11:00 a.m. **Mullins Library.** Craft and Chat.

April 7th - Magnolia on Main. **Free Soup Kitchen.**

April 8th - 9:30 a.m. **Storytime** at Mullins Library.

April 9th - 6:30 p.m. **City Council Meeting.** Council Chambers.

April 9th - 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. **The City of Marion Election.** District 1, 2 and 4. Remember to go out and cast your **VOTE!!!** IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

April 10th - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Community **Lenten Lunch** at Historic Marion Opera House. TBA. Cost \$5 per person.

April 10th - 4:00 p.m. **Marion Library.** Family Crafter noon.

April 11th - 9:30 a.m. **Storytime** at Marion Library.

April 15th - 20th. Marion County annual **Great American clean-up.** For more information on volunteering, supplies, and Recycling center /Landfill hours call Environmental Services at 843-423-8234.

April 16th - 4:00 p.m. **Mullins Library.** Family Crafter noon

April 17th - 11:30 a.m. **Denim Day Event.** For more information, please contact Rev. Marvin Hemingway at 430-8131.

April 22nd - 9:30 a.m. **Storytime** at Mullins Library.

April 23rd - 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **“A Women’s Health Pamper Day”.** Helping Hands Free Medical Clinic, 1328 North Main Street. For more information contact Dr. Tracy George at (843) 423-5212 or (843) 464-8750.

April 23rd – 6:00 p.m. **Team Meeting.** Relay for Life. MUSC-Marion.

April 25th - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. South Carolina Victim Assistance Network-Faith Based Initiative Pee Dee Roundtable. Open to all clergy and those who assist crime victims.

April 25th - 9:30 a.m. **Storytime** at Marion Library.

April 27th - 9:00 a.m. **Extra Mile For Victims. Registration** begin at 8:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Ford, (Marion County DJ), (843) 431-1110, Tammie Erwin (Marion County Sheriff’s Dept.), (843) 423-8216 or Almeta Mullins, (Marion Police Dept.), (843) 423-8616.

**Save the date for
National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2nd at
Marion Baptist Church!**

Historic Marion is a great place to visit, shop, dine and live. Visit the City of Marion online at www.marionsc.gov and on Facebook under City of Marion, South Carolina.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Ashley Brady**, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Ainsley Sanders**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Elizabeth Gray**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Cliff Wilbanks**, Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Randy Brown**, Maintenance Superintendent (843) 423-5961
- Winkie Fore**, Public Works Superintendent (843) 423-8648
- Tony Flowers**, Police Chief (843) 423-8616
- Chris Smith**, Captain (843) 423-8616
- Lt. Marilyn Rogers**, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Sgt. Derrick Smith**, Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates**, Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins**, Victim Advocate / Administrative Assistant, (843) 423-8616

“24 hour flip”



On March 10, HMRA completed our first 24 hour flip! The idea behind this is to make a big impact in a small amount of time. Donations were collected throughout the community to cover the cost for plants and dirt and community members were invited to the Main Street Commons to help plant. We had a great crowd and got all six planters

completed with dirty hands and warm hearts. Stop by and see everyone's hard work as you are shopping downtown. Do you want to be in the loop on what is going on with HMRA? Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for up to date information or stop by the office at 103 E. Dozier St."



MARION CHAMBER BOOK PROJECT



The Marion Chamber of Commerce is in its 9th year of distributing books for the third graders of Marion County. To date the Chamber has distributed over 3000 books. The book given is "Francis Marion and the Legend of The Swamp Fox" by Kate Salley Palmer, who lives

in the Clemson area of the state. This project has had a two-fold impact - impressing the importance of reading and giving the young people a sense of just how important our county was in the history of our nation. On March 7, 2019 with the assistance of the following Chamber Directors and members, Darrell Jameson, Brian Wallace, Pam Jordan, Deborah Wimberly, and Cindy Rogers, Executive Vice-President, the Chamber distributed the books in the public schools. Without the help of our member sponsors this project would not have been possible. We appreciate their commitment to the Chamber and also to the students in Marion County.



The book plate inside each book reads: The Marion Chamber of Commerce along with businesses and individuals listed below present this book to you for your personal library. We hope our gift reminds you of General Francis Marion's legacy, his role in the history of our country and local community, and Marion County's importance in our nation's history.

Book Project Sponsors:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Anderson Brothers Bank | Duke Energy |
| Charlie & Frances Bethea | Bridgers Drug Store |
| Jimmy & Anne Burroughs | Darrell Jameson |
| Representative Lucas Atkinson | First Charter Company |
| First Citizens Bank | Marion County Progress |
| Historic Marin Revitalization Association | Bill & Judy Johnson |
| Pee Dee Electric Cooperative | Jim & Glenda Burch |
| Healthcare Partners of SC, Inc. | Craig Martin, CPA |
| Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank | Mrs. Lina Rice |
| Robert E. Lee, Attorney at Law | Tommy & Linda Godbold |

Ray is City's Employee of the Month



The City of Marion is pleased to announce Derric Ray as its February 2019 Employee of the Month.

Sergeant Derric Ray was originally hired by the Marion Police Department in 2007 and graduated from the SC Criminal Justice Academy in

April 2008. He was the recipient of the Chief's Award for 2009. After a break in service, Ray was rehired by the City of Marion in 2012. He currently serves as the Shift Supervisor on Delta Shift. Ray is an outstanding officer who has distinguished himself every day through exemplary service and devotion to duty.

The Mayor and Council recognized Sgt. Ray for his dedication and contributions to the Marion Police Department at the March 12th Council Meeting.

Pee Dee Electric Francis Marion Book Project Sponsorship



The Marion Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Pee Dee Electric for their generous donation to the chamber's educational book

project. Over 350 "Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox" books were distributed to 3rd grade students in Marion County. The chamber is proud of our educational program that promotes reading and learning the importance of Marion County in our nation's history.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Richard's Restaurant

Written by Historic Marion Revitalization Association:



Marion's famous diner, Richard's Restaurant, opened their doors over 35 years ago and has been serving up some of this town's favorite foods ever since. Converted from what historically was a gas station, owner Richard Godbold has really made a name for himself on the corner of Fairlee and Main Street. You can go as early at 5:30 a.m. for a breakfast that will start

your day off right and you'll be among some of their regulars that you can find there each and every morning. Richard's is open though lunch time, where you'll want to grab a burger and fries or some of their famed fried chicken that isn't to be outdone by anyone in the entire state! The best part about Richard's, besides the food, is the feel of taking a step back in time when you walk through the doors. The walls are covered in license plates from around the USA and you can still sit on stools at the bar and watch them work the grill as they make your burger. The thing they love most about being opened on Main Street in Marion is serving the people of the town and visitors alike. Stop by and grab a bite to eat with a friend for an experience you won't forget! Richard's is located at 501 N. Main Street. Call 843.423.5561 with any questions.

Annual Meeting
 Celebrating Marion's Rich History
 Saturday, May 4, 2019
 6 pm
 Rosewood Manor House

Come out for an all inclusive night of food, drinks, music, and fun for a worthwhile cause. Limited tickets available. Call 843.423.9918 to purchase.

“What’s up, Marion County?”

Be sure to access our shared calendar that lets you know “what’s up” in Marion County! Download the Teamup app and use <https://teamup.com/kst5rhof3cj9dv81q6> to access our community calendar! Keep on top what’s happening in Marion County. For any questions, please contact Hillary Johnson, Administrative Assistant for Marion County Economic Development at (843) 423-8235 or email hjohnson@marionsc.org

Don't forget to Vote!

The City of Marion General Election for Council seats in Districts 1, 2, and 4 will be April 9th. Running unopposed and seeking reelection are Ralph Atkinson, District 1, Ronald Atkinson, District 2 and Joseph Frazier, District 4. Precincts will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. To see where you will need to vote, visit the Marion County Voter Registration and Election Commission located at 2523 East U.S. Highway 76 or call Teresa Moody 423-8268.

Save the Date!!! Annual Foxtrot Festival



The setting for this festival on Saturday, includes a 10 a.m. parade, arts and crafts, food vendors, antique classic cars and tractors show, carnival rides and inflatables. Live music featuring The Pizazz Band!

For more information, visit www.marionfoxtrotfest.com, or contact Regina Stanley, 843-206-4182 or email marionfoxtrotfestival@gmail.com.

Extra Mile For Victims

Bring a team and go the "Extra Mile" for our victims on April 27th. Registration is from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Warm up with Michelle at 9:00 a.m. and then we walk (or run if you so choose)! Contact Cynthia Ford, (Marion County DJ), (843) 431-1110, Tammie Erwin (Marion County Sheriff's Dept.), (843) 423-8216 or Almeta Mullins, (Marion Police Dept.), (843) 423-8616

The 3rd Annual Fox84 Initiative 5k Fun Run/Walk

The Fox84 Initiative for Boys will be hosting their community-staged Third Annual Fox84 Initiative 5K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, May 4, 2019. This event is sanctioned and sponsored by the City of Marion and by Danny White of RMS Race Management Systems. RMS is a USATF/RRTC National Race Certifier and a Certifier for the South Carolina Region. This year, we anticipate over 160 walkers and runners along with vendors, food trucks and entertainment. All registered walkers and Runners will receive a **Runners Swag Bag**, a super soft tri-blend t-shirt with race logo and a Fox84 Initiative **5K Fun Run finisher medal**. There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals for all divisions, to include medals and trophies for the overall Male and Female runner with the top times.

Participants are encouraged to register on-line at www.wizathon.com/fox84-initiative-5K/ (this will minimize long lines and wait time on race day)

- Same-Day Registration will begin at 7:30 AM
- The Walk/Run will began at 9:00 AM
- Awards for division winners will be at 11:00 AM

There will be performances by: Hometown great and renowned vocalist Kathy Grice and The Johnakin Middle School Flippin' Foxes and others.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Shelvin at (704)249-6199; or Danny White, www.RMSsports.com.